The points of milestones to the west of Kathmandu

There are 106 boxes of Hodgson’s Collection at British Library in London, among which box no 44 contains an interesting folio no 12 mentioning all names and points where each milestone stands and distance from Kathmandu Hanumandhoka is mentioned and these stones extend well up to western end of the country near Jhulaghat in Mahakali river. The author copied the same and presented here in the hope of sharing the information among the academic circles and interested groups.

The record starts from Hanumandhoka (0 Kosh-Mile) and ends at Ghoryagodo in Mahakali river bank. Where the last point lies is not exactly known. But it seems some distance south from present Jhulaghat. If we make a small reconnaissane, it could be pointed out.

It is mentioned in the manuscript that eight thousand hat makes one Kosh. If we take one Hat equal to 18 inches it becomes 12000 ft to a kosh (i.e. 3650 m to a Kosh). Then the total length will be 712 kms. It is generally taken at present 3.2 km to a kosh. From this account, the total distance from Kathmandu to Mahakali would be to 624 kms only. But the manuscript records the total distance between Hanumandhoka and Mahakali river to 195 kosh.

All the distance in Nepal is measured from the exact point in front of Kasthamandapa. The shrine is called Bhutishah (बुटिस्थान) in vernacular. But they are mentioned in the milestones as this much kosh from Hanumandhoka.

The milestones are still standing in some places in-situ. Some are carved on big boulders also. Among them the milestone in Dharamsthal (2 kosh) in Kathmandu, Koshedhunga in Salantar (20 kosh) and milestone in Hanuman Bhanjyang Gorkha (26 kosh) are clearly readable. There are milestones in Battar, Jumla and Borlang which are illegible to read the number of kosh. There are many places where the whereabouts of milestones are totally impossible to locate. Till few years back, there was a milestone in Baneshwar also mentioning one kosh from Hanumandhoka which has now been lost for ever.

The milestones mentioned above tally to the distance mentioned in the manuscript of Hodgson. The milestone in Gorkha mentions 26 kosh where as from Dharamsthal 2 kosh. If we can follow the highway between Kathmandu and Mahakali there must be many other milestones. They should be preserved as far as possible in-situ for the future generation as a part of tangible history.

Actually the name of the capital city of Kathmandu is also derived from the monuments of Nepal valley, but in different context than the one extolled by the traditional historians like Kasthamandapa became Kathmandu. There is a straight answer. It was the western people of Jumla kingdom who named the Nepal valley as Kathmandu. Only Jumla kingdoms and Nepal valley states were flourished with developed form of architecture in medieval period. The Jumla kingdom was full of stone architecture and Nepal valley states were embellished with the majority of wooden monuments. Jumla people, when they pronounce the Nepal valley and explain as the place full of wooden temples becomes, in their language, Kathkomandu or Kathmandu. The temples in west Nepal even today is called simply as Mandu or Mandou.

To name some are Dehimandu, Dehimandou, Jognimandu, Musemandou, Saipalmandu and...
Munamandou, Durgamandou, Dhanamandou and so on. The valley full of wooden temples, for them, became Kathmandu.

Unfortunately we could not retrieve any travel accounts of Jitari, Ashoka and Aditya Mallas of Jumla who arrived in Nepal valley in one or other reasons. If we could get some travel accounts of them it would have been much clear how they addressed Nepal valley then. However in my opinion it became:

Kath - The wood or timber
Mandu or mandou - The temples

Thus Kathmandu and Kathmandou = The place full of temples made from wooden timbers.

Same word was later copied and recopied and it hung ultimately in the tongue of the outside people. Kathmandu became the name of the capital city of Nepal.

The account of the (place names, milestone points and) distance upto Satarudrayajina river from Hanumandhoka. Eight thousand hat makes one Kosh

* Hanumandhoka to Balaju - 1 (one kosh)
* (From there) the Khari tree of Dharamsthali - 2 (kosh)
* (To) the big stone of Mulu river beyond Panchmane - 3 (kosh)
* (Then) up to the steep trail west of Khargaoon - 4 (kosh)
* (From there to) the big boulder above the trail in Barmandi - 5 (kosh)
* (up to the) fig tree above the village of Jagat - 6 (kosh)
* (Then down) to the bed of Sindure river - 7 (kosh)
* (From there to) Bhulantara - 8 (kosh)
* (Then to) Bartar (Presently known as Batar only and is now the headquarter of Nuwakot district) - 9 (kosh)
* (Then onwards to) Khynchayat (mango grove) - 10 (kosh)
* (From there to) the Lamikhet in Samarikhola (Valley) - 11 (kosh)
* (Then to the) Simalvas (bombar tree) of the same valley - 12 (kosh)
* (onwards to) Dhakryavas of Thapal khol - 13 (kosh)
* (From there to) the uptrail to the river known as Bhanyan Bharyang river - 14 (kosh)
* (and again to) the pass of Syelele - 15 (kosh)
* Katunyapa pawa - 16 (kosh)
* (Then down to) the sal (Shorea robusta) tree below Charangya (village) - 17 (kosh)
* (From Charangya village to the Bel (aegle marmelos) tree of Ankhu river - 18 kosh
* (From there upto) the large rock of Thulibayasi - 19 (kosh)
* Then to the Ranipokhari of Salyan (tar) - 20 kosh
(The locality is called, now a days, as Kosedhunga tole)
* (From there to) Borlang phedi - 21 (kosh)
* (From Borlang Phedi to) The village (of same name) - 22 (kosh)
* (From Borlang village to) Asrang village - 23 (kosh)
* (Then to) Tapalya village - 24 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Gorkha upailokot (upper fort) - distance not mentioned may be because it is less than a Kosh
* Up to Mehal Bisaunyatak (to the point of stoppage) - 25 Kosh
* (From there to) Hanumanthan of Gorkha Durbar - 26 kosh
* (From there to) the Bangya Chilaunyakorukh (Schima Wallichii) tree in Paslang - 27 (kosh)
* Then down to the plains of river Daraudi - 28 (kosh)
* (Up again to) Bhirkot Pipal Tar (not mentioned of distance may be because of less than a kosh)
* (Then to the) top of Naubisiya - 29 (kosh)
* (From that top) to Chukdi top - 30 (kosh)
* (Then down to) Goikhurta where Jamdar Pandey’s water channel runs - 31 kosh
* (From there onwards to) Satighat - 32 (kosh)
* Further on to Mahival Bhudatar - 33 (kosh)
* (Upwards from there to) Gayarkot pass - 34 (kosh)
* (From there to) the hut in Sisakhola fort - 35 (kosh)
* (Then down to) Karlung plain in Beltari near the tip of Naubisya Farm - 36 (kosh)
* (From there onwards to) Madi Vairyanigat - 37 kosh
* (Then to) the resting hut of Mahlung river - 38 (kosh)
* (Again straight to) Umachowk Myakdi Biruwatar - 39 (kosh)
* (Onwards to) Chhokowa Tandi - 40 (kosh)
* (Then upto the) hill of Majhuwa fucus tree - 41 (kosh)
* (From there to) the mango hill of Risimichhurlung - 42 (kosh)
* (On to the resting platform of) Sunakot - 43 (kosh)
* (Then to) Bitama - 44 (kosh)
* (Again to the) resting place of Ghiringhiski - 45 (kosh)
* (Then to) Deuralichhip (lower pass) - 46 (kosh)
* (Further on to) Gajarkot Kata harya - 47 (kosh)
* (Then to) Keladighat (bank of a river) - 48 (kosh)
* (Further on to) the market of Rampur - 49 (kosh)
* (Again to) Dumri village - 50 (kosh)
* (Upto the) rest house of Khalivana (area) - 51 (kosh)
* (Further on from there to) Piliwa Kawakadi - 52 (kosh)
* (Then down to) Syaphat pass - 53 (kosh)
* (From there to) the dry pond of Bhirkot - 54 (kosh)
* (From Bhirkot upto) Tahun Jhyakurdi pass - 55 (kosh)
* (Then down to) Humanidhobadi - 56 (kosh)
* (Again upto) Dharampani hill - 57 (kosh)
* (Then down to) the bottom of Thigunya - 58 (kosh)
* (After that again onwards to) Madinursirkok - 59 (kosh)
* (Then to) Suktiyakoneto - 60 (kosh)
* (Then onwards to) Tundikhe (of Palpa) - 61 (kosh)
* (From there to) Baughapass - 62 (kosh)
* From Baughapass to Kurungkhola Jhulkyapani - 63 (kosh)
* (Then next one near the) Argali (village) - 64 (kosh)
* From Argali to Risheshwor temple - 65 (kosh)
* (Down to) the end of Thordha - 66 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Darsivas - 67 (kosh)
* (From Darsivas to) Somdi (of) Dharampani - 68 (kosh)
* (Then up to) Dhakaryapani of varadanda - 69 (kosh)
* (Further on from there to) Chidigha Jhotahachaur - 70 (kosh)
* (Again to) Khanyavas Dharampani - 71 (kosh)
* (Then upto the) fort of Balakot - 72 (kosh)
* (From the fort to) Balatimilhathum - 73 (kosh)
* (Then to) Aitapur of same place - 74 (kosh)
* (Again in) Bolagadasal - 75 (kosh)
* (Then to the top of) the Mordi river - 76 (kosh)
* (Further upto) Nayakot pass - 77 (kosh)
* (Again in) Khankhivas of same place (Nayakot) - 78 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Khilajidhaita - 79 (kosh)
* (From there to) Budhanmara of Asurkot fort - 80 (kosh)
* (Then from that fort next comes) Ranjyakhel - 81 (kosh)
* (From Ranjyakhel to) Chujathanti of Chhapyakhola - 82 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Bechnya Thanti - 83 (kosh)
* (From that Thanti) to the resting place of Jogmal - 84 (kosh)
* (Then to) Dharampani of Sikuwa hill - 85 (kosh)
* (From Sikuwa hill to) Bijuwarlinka Shrine - 86 (kosh)
* (Then onwards to) Chisapani of Chidi river - 87 (kosh)
* (Further on to) the bottom of Agnineta - 88 (kosh)
* (Then to) the shrine of Vajwang kitaram - 89 (kosh)
* (From there to) Belawasatbarbanyam - 90 (kosh)
* (From Am to) Bhingarilama chaurs - 91 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Madanpur - 92 (kosh)
* (Again further on to) Ghoryagaon Kujawar - 93 (kosh)
* (Then upto) Ghoryako siran - 94 (kosh)
* (Further onto) Jamyahapokhari of Gejarkil Tham - 95 (kosh)
* (From there) Goruneta - 96 (kosh)
* (Again up from there to) the hilltop of Sulihatya - 97 (kosh)
* (On and on to) Sakhiagaon - 98 (kosh)
* (Again uphill from there to) Sakhidanda Lekha dha - 99 (kosh)
* (Now in) Ghoryanta - 100 (kosh)
* (From there in) Dharapani of Roulayhill - 101 (kosh)
* (Then to the) rest house of Nigalapan - 102 (kosh)
* (Again next) rest house (Pauwa) to Rayalya Chautariya - 103 (kosh)
* (Then to) Jamunako Than - 104 (kosh)
* (Down from there to) Jamunyaphedi - 105 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Luvajujila - 106 (kosh)
* (From Lwajujila to) the confluence of Korwang river - 107 (kosh)
* (Then again to) Chhayachhatra Gadijijula - 108 (kosh)
* (Then to) Chaibojjula - 109 (kosh)
* (From there to) the inscribed stone of Salyana - 110 (kosh)
* (Again in) the) Sowar Bhuwatkura of same place (Salyana) - 111 (kosh)
* (Then upwards to) Simkhark (of same name) - 112 (kosh)
* (Again at Jayantapani of) Salyana - 113 (kosh)
* (Then to the end of) Shorgaon - 114 (kosh)
* (From Shoragaon to) the Simalkhet of Chhohara river - 115 (kosh)
* (Then up, again to) Lekhpani of Maud - 116 (kosh)
* (Again in the) Medu ofBangao - 117 (kosh)
* (Then down to) Bagdulatar of Banagaon - 118 (kosh)
(kosh)
* (Further on from there to) Jyamiretar of Bheri river (bank) - 119 (kosh)
* (Then on to the river of) Simitnadi - 120 (kosh)
* (Then up to) Simtha village - 121 (kosh)
* (Further on to Tuhunya Watertap of Durvalo village) 122 (kosh)
* (From there down to) the confluence of Kukura dulo - 123 (kosh)
* (Then up to) Gajarapauwa - 124 (kosh)
* (Again down from there to) Patherchauda river - 125 (kosh)
* (Further on to) steep cave (Thado odar) - 126 (kosh)
* (Then on to) the rest house of Thala - 127 (kosh)
* (Again down to) Janaphedi - 128 (kosh)
* (From Phedi upto) alpine area of Kachali - 129 (kosh)
* (Further on to) Karilekh - 130 (kosh)
* (From 123 to 130 are mistakenly written as 223 to 230 in the manuscript)
* (Then down to) the hill of Katigaon - 131 (kosh)
* (Further on to) the meadow of Babyan Tala - 132 (kosh)
* (Again further on to) Ghodapuchha-meadow - 133 (kosh)
* (Then down to) Nauli river - 134 (kosh)
* (Further onto) Lohoraghat - 135 (kosh)
* (From the ghat to) Hadsaini, the bottom of Dailekh - 136 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Mudforya Post office - 137 (kosh)
* (From the post office to) Jwalanabhisthan - 138 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Hadyaachaur - 139 (kosh)
* (From Hadyaachaur to) Dusbu fort Tinduchaku - 140 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Dhomigaon - 141 (kosh)
* (From Dhomigaon to the shrine of Jwala (Paduka) - 142 (kosh)
* (Then to) Nayakot Neta - 143 (kosh)
* (From Neta to) Ullyanapost office - 144 (kosh)
* (From the post office to) the end of Sattaila - 145 (kosh)
* (From Sattaila to the Adhikari Pass - 146
* (From that pass to) Sigodi - 147 (kosh)
* (From Sigodi to) Wadakhet - 148 (kosh)
* (From there on to) Walakhet of Kuika river - 149 (kosh)
* (Then on to) Guhyanlakhet - 150 (kosh)
* (Again to the end of) Jamasikhet of Kuika - 151 (kosh)
* (Then up to) Bilalu Lekh of same place - 152 (kosh)
* (Then to) Kalapokhari of (again) same place - 153 (kosh)
* (Again up to the top of Rolagaon - 154 (kosh)
* (From the Rolagaon up to) Akurali fort - 155 (kosh)
* (Then to the hill of) Bajhket Brikham - 156 (kosh)
* (Then down to) Sukhibang river - 157 (kosh)
* (Further down to) Badhnya fort - 158 (kosh)
* (From there) Ridifort - 159 (kosh)
* (Then to) the mouth of the bridge in Budhiganga river - 160 (kosh)
* (From there upto) Sirkot rest house - 161 (kosh)
* (Then to the village of) Margu - 162 (kosh)
* (From the village upto) Jaumala Belodi highland - 163 (kosh)
* (Then to) Chaukhutya post office - 164 (kosh)
* (From the post office to) Shyalkatyal - 165 (kosh)
* (Then upto) the hill of Kumalchura - 166 (kosh)
* (Then to Sri Moharatimat - 167 (kosh)
* (From there down to) Budhavas of Gadhikhola - 168 (kosh)
* (Then upto) Silgadhi - 169 (kosh)
* (From there down to) DipayalShera - 170 (kosh)
* (From Shera to) Tikhakhayertaula - 171 (kosh)
* (No 172 is missing)
* (Then onto) the mouth of the fort below Gaunibadh (Shrine) in the bank of river Seli - 173 (kosh)
* (Then to the) queen's rock of Sevi ganda (Setiganga)? - 174 (kosh)
* (But written 774 in the manuscript)
* (Then on to) Mayan (?) of Baryadungara - 175 (kosh)
* (Further onto) Kalal village - 176 (kosh)
* (Then to the) pass of dandavanthalad - 177 (kosh)
* (From there downto) Biduyani gatyaghat - 178 (kosh)
* (Then upto) Jognimandou of Litari village - 179 (kosh)
* (From the temple Jognimandou to) Kokilakikhali - 180 (kosh)
* (Then upto) Maurado village of Bhuntarya Lekh - 181 (kosh)
* (From the Lekh to) Jhurkai village - 182 (kosh)
* (Then on to the devine temple of) Mudainavillage - 183 (kosh)
* (From there up to) Golpadhik - 184 (kosh)
* (Then upto) Shaukyalekh - 185 (kosh)
1. The author of this chapter was one among other members in cataloguing the Hodgson's collection of British Library in London. He did catalogue the Newari portion of the collection during the months of June and July 2005. The whole work on documentation is still underway on the leadership of Dr. Ramesh Dhungel under whom Mr. Chandra Prasad Tripathi and Bairagi Kairia also did work in the same nature. But their field was different. Bairagi Kairia documented all Rai and Limbu manuscripts and Chandra Prasad Tripathi did work on Kaithi and Maithili collections.

I should thank Prof. Dr. Michael Hutt and Dr. Ramesh Dhungel for their kind cooperation and consideration, and also for ever smiling and very cooperative staff members of the British Library in London.

Getting facsimile copies of the manuscript from London proved to be very expensive for the writer. Therefore, despite the time pressure on him he copied with hand in utmost care and presented herewith. Any short comings is therefore regretted.

2. श्री हनुमान्हैप्रभुहरिमपिताम्बाको

दोमानकतक जसाजसाकोसोहिसावहाँजाहाँहातकोकोस

यक

श्री हनुमान्हैप्रभुहरिमपिताम्बाको

बालाज्ञु - १

घरमणिका लरिकाहरिका - २

जितपुर भवनुभोको धुना दुंगा - ३

पालिमारु तपिऱम तेढी गाडा - ४

वर्मन्दीमन्ना वातामातहरू धुना दुंगा - ५

जगातमाथिपिपलको राख - ६

संयुक्तमा धार धक्का - ७

मुट्यार - ८

बारि - ९

पिर्यास्त - १०

सामान्यिकोलामिन्याल - ११
केलांद्रि घाट - ४८
समाजपुरको होटल - ४९
दुवैला - ५०
पालकलाको पीवामाठि - ५२
पिलुको कंकनादि - ५२
स्वागत केडागारिक - ५३
विविध सुपारिक - ५४
ताहिमाकार्दि मन्दिर - ५५
हुमनीचा बांध - ५६
धरमपाली ढाँड़ा - ५७
शिल्प फेंड - ५८
मादि मुसङर पाहाड़ - ५९
सुविदिता कोटे - ६०
दुहासेन - ६१
बोली मन्दिर - ६२
कुमुद बोली मूल्यापानी - ६३
अग्निशर - ६४
राधि राप्याको धान - ६५
श्रीरामीको पुछार - ६६
श्रीरामीको दास्यसार - ६७
धरमपालीको सोंपी - ६८
बाराि काँडा पानी - ६९
चिकित्सा मोनियाहा चौर - ७०
पानीया वासंधरमपाली - ७१
केन्द्रा बरफकोट - ७२
बोली विभूषण - ७३
प्रेम ऐन्तर पुरुं - ७४
बोली बोड़ा सांत - ७५
मोनियालाको विठान - ७६
नयांकोट मन्दिर - ७७
नयांकोट पानीयाबास - ७८
पिलाजागाटी चौर - ७९
असुरकोट वृक्षमाराण - ८०
राज्यापेट - ८१
छाया पोला चुना ठोंडरी - ८२
वेलीवना ठोंडरी - ८३
जोगमलको चौतारा - ८४
सिकुवा ढाँडा धरमपाली - ८५
विज्ञानको विकासको धान - ८६
शिल्पेला पिसापानी - ८७
अशा नेपालीन - ८८
विहार विकासको धान - ८९
वेलवा सत्यविन्या आँख - ९०
भागवत लामा चौर - ९१
मादि पोला मदनपुर - ९२
मोहना वृक्षारो - ९३
जल पान सहावन - ९४
वैज्ञानिको धान सजयलाहा पोनिकर - ९५
गोरी नेटा - ९६
ललित हालवा ढाँडा - ९७
साँच गारु - ९८
साँच ढाँडा लेख दर - ९९
मोहना नेटा - १००
राजस्व ढाँडा छापानी - १०१
शिकारपालीको पीवामा - १०२
राजस्व चौतिसिया पीवाम - १०३
जामुनाको धान - १०४
जामुना अंडी - १०५
व्यायामस्थल - १०६
सूर्याड कोलाहा दोमा - १०७
छाया छाया गांव सिकुवा - १०८
साँच निजला - १०९
सर्वनाश लेखा छुगे - ११०
सर्वनाश नीरीया भुवान बुरा - १११
सर्वनाश सिमबक - ११२
सर्वनाश जनवर पानी - ११३
सूर्यावको पुछार - ११४
छोटर पोला सिमलपेट - ११५
बुडुको लेख पानी - ११६
वर्गाण चेतु - ११७
वर्गाण वे दुला टार - ११८
भोरीको चार ज्ञानबाट - ११९
सिमलपेट पोली - १२०
शिल्प गारु - १२१
दुहाःलागाट दुहासी धारा - १२२
Mile-stone Inscription of Hanumanthan in Gorkha Darbar

(Photon I)

स्वतंत्र १८६९ साल मिति मार्गशिर शुद्धि ६ विं २ काठमाडौं दरबार भ्री हनुमान ढोका देखि गो खाँ दरबार भ्री हनुमानजीका था न सम्म पक्का कोश - २६

Milestone Inscription of Mulu river (Mulukhu) beyond Panchamane Carved on a big boulder.

हनुमानजीका

देखि कोश - ३ (Photo II)